GREG’S ENVIRONMENT FACTORS TO BE A FAVORITE STUDENT IN THOR FREUDENTHAL’S *DIARY OF A WIMPY KID* MOVIE (2010): A BEHAVIORIST APPROACH

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GREG’S ENVIRONMENT FACTORS TO BE A FAVORITE STUDENT IN THOR FREUDENTHAL’S DIARY OF A WIMPY KID MOVIE (2010): A BEHAVIORIST APPROACH

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ABSTRACT


The major problem in this research paper is to describe how Greg’s environment factors to be a favorite student in Thor Freudenthal’s Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie (2010) are. The purposes of this research paper are to analyze Greg’s environment factors to be a favorite student in Thor Freudenthal’s Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie (2010) based on the structural element of the movie and based on the behaviorist approach. The object study is Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie (2010) by Thor Freudenthal. It is used in behaviorist approach. In analyzing this study, the researcher uses qualitative research and behaviorist approach. The primary data source of this research is Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie (2010) by Thor Freudenthal and produced by 20th Century Fox Pictures. The secondary data sources are books and the other sources that support the analysis. Having analyzed this research paper, the researcher presents two conclusions. First, Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie is a live action movie produced in 2010 and directed by Thor Freudenthal. Second, the issue of this research paper is reflected in all behaviorist aspects. The influence of environment on Greg to be a favorite student comes from environmental factors, like from family, peers, school or education, and society or community.

Keywords: Environment Factors, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Behaviorist.

I. Introduction

Background of the Study: Middle school or junior high school is the school after elementary school and before senior high school. A kid starts
middle school at the age of 13th years old. 13th years old is the transitional time where the physical, the psychological, and the behavior of a kid changes. The change is caused by many factors.

For a new student, it is very difficult to spend the first process in the middle school. The difficult is found because of the influence of environment. A kid meets new environment, new rules, until struggle to be a favorite student. Skinner (in Hall & Lindzey, 1985:468) believes that an understanding of personality will develop from a considering of the behavioral development of the human organism in continuing interaction with the environment. Environmental influences consist chiefly of the intrauterine and physical environment, family, peers, school, community and culture. (Pikunas, 1976:72).

Middle school in Canada usually consists of two or three years (grades 6, 7 and 8, based on the province). Greg Heffley is the major character in Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2010 movie. He is one of the shorter kids in 6th grade. Greg studies in Westmore Middle School. Westmore Middle School is an educational middle school which used in Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie 2010. For the first time, Greg looks a variety of student’s characters in Westmore Middle School. He feels that he is different from his friends. He feels better than other students.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) movie is an interesting movie. There are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. Firstly, Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) movie is an educating movie. Secondly, the stars in Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) movie are young actors. Thirdly, Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) movie is a great movie with some awards. Fourthly, the influence of environment factors to be a favorite student of the major character which is reflected in Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2010 movie is very touching.

Concerning the fact that Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2010 movie is one of the popular movies for the all ages of viewer in the world since the movie is presented. The researcher interests to have a research on this movie by describing the influence of environment factors to be a favorite student of the
major character in the story. Thus, the researcher observes *Diary of Wimpy Kid* 2010 movie by using A Behaviorist Approach. The researcher constructs the title GREG’S ENVIRONMENT FACTORS TO BE A FAVORITE STUDENT IN THOR FREUDENTHAL’S *DIARY OF A WIMPY KID* MOVIE (2010): A BEHAVIORIST APPROACH.

**Problem Statement** is “How are Greg’s environment factors to be a favorite student in Thor Freudenthal’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* Movie (2010) using a Behaviorist Approach?”

**Limitation of the Study** is the researcher focuses this research by analyzing Greg’s environment factors to be a favorite student in Thor Freudenthal’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movie (2010) from the influence of environment factors based on the Behaviorist approach.

**Objective of the Study** is to analyze Greg’s environment factors to be a favorite student in Thor Freudenthal’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* Movie (2010) based on its structural elements of the movie and to analyze Greg’s environment factors to be a favorite student in Thor Freudenthal’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* Movie (2010) based on the Behaviorist approach.

**II. Research Method**

In this research the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze the movie using behaviorism approach. The steps to conduct the research are as follow (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection and finally (5) determining technique of data analysis.

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data, as follows (a) Primary Data: The primary data source is the movie of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Thor Freudenthal and produced by 20th Century Fox Pictures. (b) Secondary Data: The secondary data sources are books and the other sources that support the analysis.

The techniques of the data collection are as follows watching the movie repeatedly, taking note of important parts both primary and secondary
data, arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category, selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis and drawing conclusion and formulate suggestion.

III. Research Finding

1. The structural elements analysis of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movie (2010)
   a. Character and Characterization

   1) In this movie there are major character and minor character. The major character is Greg.

   a. Major Character is Greg

   Greg is a young kid who starts to study in the middle school. Physically, Greg has handsome and cute face. He has short straight blond hair. He has brown eyes. His skin is white. Mentally, Greg is anxious, panic and worries kid.

   **Rodrick**: Greg!
   **Greg**: Huh? What?
   **Rodrick**: What are you doing? Get up! Mom and Dad have been calling you for an hour. You're about to be late for your first day of middle school.
   **Greg**: What? Oh, geez! How did that happen?
   **Rodrick**: Go, go, go! Mom's about to flip out! She sent me to get you while she waits in the car!

   **Greg’s Father**: (EX CLAIMS) What are you doing? What's going on?
   **Greg**: Getting ready for... (HOOTING)...school.
   **Greg’s Father**: Are you insane? School doesn't start till next week. And, FYI, school doesn't start at 4:00 in the morning!

   (DWK/5-18)

   Socially, Greg is unfriendly kid. He lives with his family. He has two brothers. They are Rodrick and Manny. Rodrick is Greg’s older brother and Manny is Greg’s little brother. In his family, Greg feels uncomfortable with his older brother (Rodrick). He is always disturbed by Rodrick. He is rarely to communicate with his older brother, if there is no important thing. Greg chooses to avoid from Rodrick and hide his feeling or problem by himself.
Morally, Greg is an independent kid. He writes his daily activities when he starts in middle school.

Greg: But when my mom went out to buy this thing, I specifically told her not to buy one that said "diary" on it. This just proves Mom doesn't understand anything about kids my age. The only reason I agreed to write in this thing is because when I'm rich and famous I'll have better things to do than answer people's stupid questions all day long. (DWK/38)

The conversation above shows Greg who has the diary.

Greg writes all of his activities and his feeling about middle school.

b. Minor characters

1) Angie

Her complete name is Angie Steadman. She is senior of Greg and Rowley in the middle school.

Angie: Hi. I'm Angie. (DWK/206)

Physically, Angie has long and straight hair. Her hair is blond. Mentally, Angie is a nice, friendly, mature, independent, and smart girl in middle school.

Angie: This place is a glorified holding pen. It's where adults put you as you make that awkward transition between child and teenager so they don't even have to look at you. Hi. I'm Angie. (DWK/209)

Socially, Angie is friendly and congenial girl. She has good relation or communication with everyone.

Angie: It's completely barbaric. This place is an intellectual wasteland. But, you know, it's nice to meet someone more interested in his mind than in his body.

Rowley: You girls get to jump rope. What are you doing hiding?

Angie: Avoiding the pain. It all starts in middle school, you know? You're not a kid anymore. The coddling has stopped. Kids are now separated by intelligence. The weak are picked on. And girls you've known since kindergarten won't even talk to you anymore. (DWK/189-191)
Morally, Angie is a kind senior in the middle school especially for Greg.

Greg: And I need something to make me a class favorite.
Angie: What about class favorites?
Greg: Don't you ever say hi or hello before you start talking?
Angie: Hi.
Rowley: Hello. Oh, Greg's only here because he really wants to be something...
Greg: Rowley! I was just saying that I would really like to nail these people because it's so obvious that they're only doing these activities to get in the yearbook.

The conversation above shows that Angie is a nice senior. It looks when she gives Greg about her opinion about class favorite.

2) Susan

Susan is Greg’s mother. Physically, Susan has straight long hair and blond. Her face is beautiful. She uses glasses. Mentally, Susan is a wise mother. However, she cares about her little son (Manny) more, but she also still cares with Greg.

Susan: There is no way he is going back down. I just wanted to sleep till 6:00.
Manny: Bubby!
Frank: Go to bed. I got him.
Susan: Greg, what are you doing up making all this noise?
Greg: It was Rodrick! He woke me up! He changed my clock!
Rodrick: (SNORING)
Greg: But I swear, he was just...
Susan: Go to bed. (DWK/21-28)

Socially, Susan is warm and congenial mother. She has good relation and communication with her family. She always makes her family harmonious, especially her three sons who sometimes are scrappy.

Greg: I think it's gross and undignified that I have to eat breakfast next to him on the potty.
Susan: Okay, well, it's your fault he's still potty training.
Greg: Don't look down, Manny. The potty monster doesn't like it when you look at him.
Manny: (SCREAMS)
Greg: I was just joking with him.
Susan: Okay. Kiss him you're sorry and then let's get a move on. Can't be late for your first day of school. (DWK/85-93)

Morally, Susan is kind woman and mother. She wants to make his son be a nice kid and do not be naughty kid, especially Greg.

Rodrick: Got you!
Greg: (SCREAMING)
Susan: Greg, did you throw Manny off his...What is going on?
Rodrick: Greg started it. I just came in here to take a shower.
Greg: He's lying! He was gonna kill me 'cause I was in his room!
Susan: And so you peed on him?
Greg: Yes. I mean, no. I mean...
Rodrick: Yes. (DWK/369-377)

The conversation above shows that Susan (Greg’s mother) cares with Greg, she asks Greg to do nicely with his little son (Manny) and his older son (Rodrick).

b. Setting

1. Setting of Time

The setting of time in Thor Freudenthal’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movie (2010) is showed based on the activity of student who studies in the middle school (Greg as the major character). Firstly, the setting of time occurs in September. It is clear in Greg’s diary. Secondly, the setting of time occurs in the morning. It can be observed when Rodrick (Greg’s older brother) wake Greg up to get ready to go to school. Thirdly, the setting of time occurs at night in Halloween night. Fourthly, the setting of time occurs in autumn season continued to winter season. Fifthly, the setting of time occurs in spring season. The students come again in middle school in this season. Sixthly, the setting of time occurs in winter season again. It can be observed when Greg tries to apologize with Rowley, Greg throws Rowley by snow ball. Seventhly, the setting of time occurs in spring season, it can be observed when Greg joins with the school
event in the Wonderful Wizard of Oz performance to raise his popularity. Lastly, the setting of time occurs in summer season. It can be observed when Patty shares Westmore Middle School’s annual book.

2. Setting of Place

Commonly, the setting places of Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie (2010) are in the Greg’s house and the middle school, because this movie tells the activity of the student who studies in middle school. Besides that, the setting places are also in the around of Greg and Rowley’s house, in the around of Westmore middle school, Rowley’s house, and Fregley’s house.

c. Plot

1. The Exposition of Beginning

The beginning of the movie started with the writing of Greg in his diary, it is in September. Then, the movie also started with the appearance of Greg with his diary which the diary is from his mother. In this section Greg appears in animation (in cartoon).

2. The Middle

In Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie (2010) consists of two dominant problems from the major character (Greg). There are the bad relation between Greg with his family, and Greg with his best friend (Rowley). Firstly, in the Greg’s house, Greg feels disappointed because his family does not understand the desire of the kids like him. Secondly, in middle school, Greg meets his old friend again, namely Rowley. In fact, Greg thinks that Rowley does not ready to study in the middle school. Greg feels anxious pal up with Rowley, because Rowley is still like the children.

3. The End

Based on the problem in the middle story of this movie, there are many conclusions in the end of the movie. Firstly, the problem of Greg with his family, Greg feels disappointed with his family. Greg
thinks that his first terrible time in his middle school needs somebody to pay them all. Greg chooses Rodrick to pay the bad time he has in his early middle school. Secondly, Rowley does not communicate for a long time with Greg until the winter season and spring season come. Greg tries to have good communication with Rowley by saving Rowley when they are asked by the naughty boys (they enemy at Halloween night). Greg says in the front of his friends, that he eats the rotten cheese. Greg is aware of the important to save a best friend, especially his best friend (Rowley). From the accident, Greg and Rowley be harmonious each other again and they start to play together.

2. Behaviorist Theory

Skinner (in Hall & Lindzey, 1985:468) believes that an understanding of personality will develop from a considering of the behavioral development of the human organism in continuing interaction with the environment. According to Pikunas (1976:58) environmental influences consist chiefly of the intrauterine and physical environment, family, peers, school, community and culture.

1. Family Factor

The family is an enduring social group based on marriage and blood relationship, exercising hereditary and environment influences of prime dimensions on the off spring (Pikunas, 1976:60). In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movie (2010), family factor, it is very urgent influence in shaping the human behavior. In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movie (2010), Greg’s behavior is influenced from his family, namely by his mother and his older brother. Greg is a new kid, who starts to study in the middle school. Greg’s mother influences Greg to be a favorite student by giving a diary. Greg’s mother also asks Greg to come in the middle
school early. Then, Greg’s mother gives an advice for Greg to be harmonious with Rowley (Greg’s best friend) quickly.

Next, Greg’s older brother (Rodrick) influences Greg to be a favorite student by waking up Greg in order to Greg does not late to come in the middle school. Rodrick also gives the advices about the rules to study in the middle school. Then, Rodrick checks Greg by giving the questions about how is Greg’s experience in the first day of middle school.

2. Peer Factor

Peer interaction usually gives much gratification and need satisfaction from middle childhood to the years of late adulthood (Pikunas, 1976:66). Peers, next to parents, are the most significant individuals in a person’s life (Pikunas, 1976:66).

In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movie, Greg has peers, namely Rowley, Chirag and Quentin in the middle school. They influence Greg to be a favorite student. Rowley makes Greg feels jealous because he can get the seat for lunch in the middle school’s cafeteria like a favorite student. Rowley also influences Greg to be a favorite student when their relationship is complicated.

Next, Chirag is Greg’s classmate. Chirag influences Greg to be a favorite student by giving a prohibition to do not touch the rotten cheese in the basketball field. Chirag also influences Greg to be a favorite student by inviting Greg to join in drawing the cartoon competition. Then, Quentin (Greg’s friend in the middle school), he influences Greg by insulting Greg, because Rowley invites Greg to play loudly.

3. School or Education Factor

School learning is more than a mere transfer or extension of early home learning (Pikunas, 1976:67). The school’s basic commitment centers on the cultivation of intellectual power (Pikunas,
Socialization, group activities, and psychosexual adjustment are other major concerns of the school system (Pikunas, 1976:67).

In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movie (2010), education influences the children’s behavior. The education or school influence also makes Greg to be a favorite student. Greg’s middle school is Westmore Middle School gives the influence on Greg to be a favorite student by the kinds of extracurricular activities, like wrestling class and safety patrol. The influence on Greg to be a favorite student in his middle school also comes from the lesson during teaching learning process in his classroom. Then, the influence on Greg to be a favorite student comes from the rotten cheese in his middle school’s basketball field.

4. Community or Society Factor

The community is the large social structure that serves as a framework for socio economic and cultural life (Pikunas, 1976:70). Traditionally, three social-class levels are defined: upper, middle, and, lower (Pikunas, 1976:71). The cluster of people in metropolitan and large city areas contributed heavily to the formation of mass society, which, in turn, merges into a mass culture (Pikunas, 1976:72).

The community or society also influences Greg to be a favorite student. The community or society in Greg’s house is the rich people, especially in North side of Greg’s house. However, there place is dangerous. At Halloween night, Greg and Rowley visit the North side of his house area. Then, Greg and Rowley meet the naughty boys until they get the problem. Finally, the problem is finished in Greg’s middle school. The naughty boys asks Greg and Rowley eat the rotten cheese in the basketball field. Next, Greg saves Rowley who eats the rotten cheese. Greg says he eats the rotten cheese in front of his friends. Finally, Greg reaches his desire to be a favorite student and he is listed in his middle school’s yearbook.
IV. Conclusion

The analysis of previous chapter brings the study into conclusion. Firstly, based on the structural elements of the movie, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2010) is produced perfectly by the director. All of the structural elements have the best connection for each other. The theme of the movie is a success friendship when a person can save and accept the weakness of a best friend. From the theme, this movie is suitable to be watched by all ages, because best friend is part of a person’s life. Second, based on behaviorist analysis, the issue of this research paper is reflected in all behaviorist aspects. Greg’s desire to be a favorite student comes from environment factors, like from family, peer, school or education, and society or community. The big influence of environment factor comes from school or educational environment by the existence of rotten cheese and from the society or community environment, namely the naughty boys. Greg is to be a favorite student, even is not thought by him before. Then, Greg is also listed in his middle school’s yearbook as the cutest friend category with Rowley.
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